

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Speaker: The Honourable PIERRE-FRANÇOIS CASGRAIN

FRIDAY, February 7, 1936.

The house met at three o'clock.

## DEATH OF KING GEORGE V

MOTION FOR HUMBLE ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY  
KING EDWARD VIII—MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE  
TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the resolutions of which I gave notice yesterday. The text of both resolutions appear upon the order paper. I shall propose two motions, each of which my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) has kindly consented to second. For the convenience of the house the motions will be dealt with as one in the speeches that will be made.

In the last session of the last parliament, members of all parties in this House of Commons united in extending to His Majesty King George V, and to Her Majesty the Queen, the congratulations of the House of Commons of Canada upon the celebration by His Majesty of the silver jubilee of His Majesty's accession to the throne. A new parliament has since come into being. A new king is to-day upon the throne.

In the first session of this new parliament, as recently elected members it is our duty, on behalf of those we represent, as, indeed, it is also our sad privilege, to convey to His Majesty King Edward VIII the expression of our profound sorrow at the bereavement His Majesty has sustained in the death of his beloved father, our late sovereign, King George V, and to express to His Majesty our own personal allegiance and loyalty; also to express our heartfelt sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Mary.

In the tributes paid His late Majesty on the occasion of the completion of the twenty-fifth year of his reign, there will be found the silver lining to the cloud of the world's sorrow to-day. It may truly be said of mortals, be their station high or low, that kindly words to the living are better far than many eulogies of the dead. There must be consolation in the heart of Queen Mary, in the heart of King Edward, as there is in our own hearts, that all that could be said to-day was said at

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that time, and said to better effect, and that, long before his earthly life drew to its close, King George knew how greatly he was beloved by all his subjects, and how universally esteemed he was by all men and nations.

At the close of the day there will often be seen, at the distant horizon in our Canadian skies, that silver light "which never was on sea or land," as the sun, in a blaze of glory, sinks to its rest. Such, it seems to me, will be the world's memory of the passing of our sailor king, as he left these shores for others beyond our ken.

I would not venture, in the presence of a sorrow so manifest as that we have witnessed in all parts of the world, to add anything at this time to the expression of our own grief. Nor shall I seek to repeat what was said in this house, and elsewhere throughout the empire, less than a year ago, and which has found new and deeper meaning in the events of the past few weeks. I shall content myself with expressing on behalf of the Parliament of Canada, in common with other parliaments of the empire, our warm appreciation of the tributes paid our late sovereign by those in authority and others in foreign countries, making special mention, as having reference to our immediate neighbour, of the many fine tributes paid the memory of King George by the president, the press and the people, of the United States. International feeling has never found nobler expression, nor have foreign nations come at any time into more friendly touch with our own, than in the sincerity and depth of the sympathy they have shown with the nations of the British Commonwealth in their sorrow and loss.

May I say just a word of the personality of King George V, and of our sympathy with Her Majesty Queen Mary, also of what seems to me to have been of greatest significance in His late Majesty's life and reign.

It is impossible, I believe, to overestimate what we owe, and indeed, what the world owes to the personality and personal example and endeavours of King George. Had His Majesty been a different type of person, the course of current events in Britain and else-

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 207, pages C142419-C143041)

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